

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 02090 130851Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2887

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2090

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MY

SUBJECT: BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN

1. AT AN EVENING SOCIAL FUNCTION MARCH 11, I HAD THE OCCASION TO HAVE A BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AT HIS INVITATION. ALTHOUGH IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CONVERSE OVER THE BLARE OF THE BAND THAT WAS PLAYING (AND THE PM SPEAKS SO SOFTLY EVEN IN NORMAL CONVERSATION*), IT IS CLEAR THAT HE REMAINS PRE-OCCUPIED WITH THAILAND'S PROSPECTS, WITH SOVIET INTENTIONS IN THE REGION, AND WITH THE IMPACT OF THE VIETNAM-CAMBODIA STRUGGLES. HE SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY HIS RECENT MEETINGS WITH KRIANGSAK, BUT THAT HE HOPED WE WOULD CONTINUE TO HELP THAILAND. ALTHOUGH EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT VIETNAM'S LONGER TERM INTENTIONS IN THE REGION, HE SAID VIETNAM WAS BEING QUITE "RESPONSIVE" IN ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH MALAYSIA. HE FOUND THIS ENCOURAGING TOO.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO INQUIRED WHETHER THERE WERE ANY DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE PRC.

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I SAID THAT WE CONTINUED TO BE GUIDED BY THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, THAT TAIWAN REMAINED THE DIFFICULT ISSUE, AND THAT OUR COMMITMENT TO TAIWAN REMAINED FIRM. HE NODDED APPROVINGLY AND REITERATED THE VIEW HE EXPRESSED IN WASHINGTON THAT IT WAS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO SOLVE THE TAIWAN ISSUE IN A WAY THAT DID NOT DETRACT FROM THE SECURITY OF TAIWAN AND THE REGION.

3. THE CONVERSATION WAS TERMINATED BY AIDES BRINGING THE PRIME MINISTER THE FIRST RETURNS FROM THE KELANTAN STATE ELECTIONS. THE PRIME MINISTER WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED THAT THE FIRST RESULTS WERE SO ENCOURAGING TO THE GOVERNMENT. (HE MUST FIND THE FINAL RESULTS HIGHLY SATISFYING, AS THE CONSTITUTE A MAJOR AND UNEXPECTEDLY STRONG VICTORY FOR THE NATIONAL FRONT. EVERYONE ASSUMES THIS MEANS EARLY NATIONAL ELECTIONS--APRIL OR MAY.)
MILLER

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Message Attributes

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